

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 12 has been canceled. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to include the allowable limitations of claim 12. Claims 17, 18 and 26-33 are allowed. No new matter has been added.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barritt (US 6,271,504) in view of Hurko (US 4,242,554). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite allowance of the present application, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the allowable limitations of now canceled claim 12. Therefore, this rejection is moot. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claims 1, 3-11 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hopponen (US 6,437,291) in view of Hurko and Christopher (US 6,037,571). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 12. Therefore, this rejection is moot as to claims 1, 3-11 and 13-15. Method claim 16 has also been amended to track the limitations of claim 1 and should therefore be allowable for at least the same reasons claim 1 is allowable. No new matter has been added to claim 16 that would require further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of this rejection.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If a phone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues related to this matter, please contact Applicants' attorney listed below at 612.371.5387.

Respectfully submitted,

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